

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
14 April 2005 (14.04.2005)

PCT

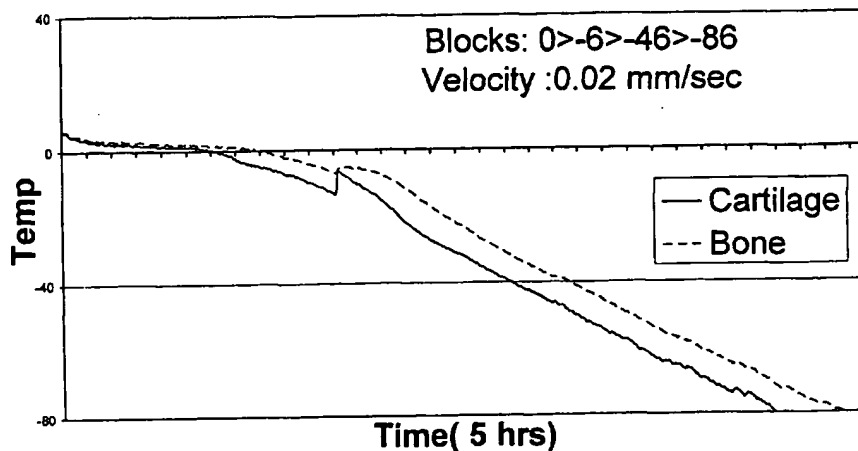
(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/032251 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A01N 1/02** (74) Agent: REINHOLD COHN AND PARTNERS; P.O.Box 4060, 61040 Tel Aviv (IL).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/IL2004/000929 (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (22) International Filing Date: 10 October 2004 (10.10.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/509,546 9 October 2003 (09.10.2003) US
60/536,508 15 January 2004 (15.01.2004) US
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- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD FOR FREEZING, THAWING AND TRANSPLANTATION OF VIABLE CARTILAGE

Cartilage cylinder cooling rate



(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a method for providing a patient having impaired cartilage in an organ at a target site, with corresponding viable cartilage, possibly osteochondral cartilage. The method comprises freezing the cartilage by cooling it at a cooling rate of 0.01°C/min to 3°C/min. Thawing of the cartilage may be by warming it to a temperature that is at least substantially equal to the melting temperature of the solution in which it was frozen, at a rate sufficiently high to minimize recrystallization. The thawed viable cartilage may then be grafted into the target site. Also disclosed are frozen viable cartilage and thawed viable cartilage.

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